ACTION FORUM

AN INDEPENDENT MONTHLY FOR RAINHAM AND THE SURROUNDING AREA ■ MAY 2002 NUMBER 367

Berengrave House where the Duke and Duchess of York once stayed during a visit to Rainham in the 1920s. Mrs Faulkner recalls helping in the house for an evening visit by the royal guests in her letter on page 3.

Robert J. Kitney

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AF
Next Issue: June 1st 2002
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Editorial: Mrs Barbara Mackay Miller, 5 Meresborough Cotts, Tel: 231307.
Advertising: Hamish Mackay Miller, 5 Meresborough Cotts, Tel: 231307.

Editorial

After a rather slow start recent events seem to have stimulated interest in celebrating the Queen's Golden Jubilee. I see from local news reports that over 60 roads have now enquired about street parties and these are only the ones that have applied to the council for information, I am sure many more are being planned in private grounds thus dispensing with the legalities. Let us hope 50 years on the weather is kinder to the nation, I think most people remember June 2nd 1953 for the torrential rain that fell throughout the morning rather than for the celebrations, many of which were cancelled or postponed. If you have not yet decided how to celebrate we include details of community events to be held at Rainham, Wigmore and Upchurch which are in the final stages of preparation, you would be very welcome to join in any or indeed all of these planned activities. Writing of these events reminds me of the years during which we were involved with the Rainham Spectacular (for the newcomers to the area this was a grand Fete held for about 20 years on the Spring Bank Holiday Saturday in Cozenton Park). In its early days, run as a fund raising activity for Rainham Community Centre, the Spectacular attracted huge crowds – the first one in 1971 had traffic queuing back almost to Gillingham – but as local schools and churches gradually introduced their own events the Rainham Spectacular faded into history. The weather for the Spectacular was notoriously fickle, with hindsight I think I can remember more days when gumboots and raincoats were the order of the day rather than shorts and sunshades, so cross your fingers that this year is one for sunbathing. The Spectacular may have been abandoned but Rainham Community Centre *continues to thrive. This month they have a couple of* special events that you are very welcome to attend, the centre beside Rainham Station is there for your use so if you do not know it why not pay a visit and see what is going on.

The Ranger service at our local country parks is under threat as a cost cutting exercise by the local council. Our community open space is valuable to Medway and well used, even on bleak winter days there are always visitors walking the dog, or just getting some fresh air at Riverside when I deliver copies of Action Forum to the Visitor Centre. Without the constant care and attention by the Rangers (who also plan and supervise many community activities throughout the year) these pleasant parks would soon become rundown and neglected, do not let this happen. You can make your voice felt by signing the petition to keep our Rangers available either at Riverside Country Park or The Rainham Bookshop. Meanwhile make the most of the good weather to enjoy the countryside during this, the best month of the year. Have a happy month of May and we will see you again in June.

Correspondence

SPONSORED BOWL & WALK
Dear Editor,

Once again we are having a Macmillan Sponsored Bowl & Walk a Mile at the Prince Arthur Indoor Bowls Club in Gillingham opposite the Royal Engineers Museum on 14th May, 9.30am to 1.00pm. This year's event is going to be in memory of Fred Lewis who sadly died last year. For many years he made this an annual event with the kind support of the Indoor Bowls Club. Vera Lewis and Cyril Smithies, keen members of the club, helped Fred with the organisation, and with the generous help of all the sponsors raised an average of £1,500 each year for Macmillan. Let's make this year's event a fitting tribute to Fred. All the proceeds will go to help the work of the local Macmillan nurses in Kent. Spectators are welcome. Sponsorship forms are available from Cyril Smithies Medway 375517 or Bill Trythall 230329.

Yours faithfully
W.C. Trythall, Chairman,
Medway Committee

WIGMORE MADS
Dear Editor,

Another evening of hilarious comedy is to be seen on 23rd, 24th, 25th May when Wigmore MADS present 'ONE O'CLOCK FROM THE HOUSE' by Frank Vickery at St Matthew's Community Centre, *Drewery Drive, Wigmore, at 8.00pm.*

The play revolves around the funeral of an elderly father, whose family members include a cook who bakes almondless almond cakes, another who thinks his shopping trolley is a dog called Rover and a sister who's a happy inmate of a psychiatric home. Add to this a posthumous joke played by the father on his daughters, who are not exactly close knit family, the scene is set for a scorching comedy.

Tickets £5, £4 concessions, available from Sue Burrows – Medway 370639.

Yours sincerely
Mrs Sue Burrows

QUEEN MOTHER'S VISIT
TO BERENGRAVE HOUSE
Dear Editor,

'Two little girls in blue', the band played to my sister and I as we arrived at Berengrave House, Berengrave Lane, when Colonel and Mrs Day and their daughter Miss Betty were in residence. My two older sisters were employed there, Dolly as cook and Winnie as parlour maid. A special visitor was expected for the evening – hence the lovely music, and if my memory is correct it was the Duchess of York, our Queen Mum. My mother was also with us, she had been asked to give a hand in the kitchen – in *her younger years she had won a scholarship to* Bromley College for cooking, so she was in her element. Lucy and I weren't allowed near the dining room of course, but I look back on that evening as very special.

Thank you for your Action Forum, I now have two sons living in Berengrave Lane, and wish they could see the 'House' as I remember it.

Yours faithfully
Mary Faulkner
(formerly Stockey)
21 Merilba Street
Tottenham 28T3, N.S.W.

WINE & WISDOM
Dear Editor,

A Wine & Wisdom Evening is to be held in aid of the RNID on Saturday 8th June at St Matthew's Community Centre, Drewery Drive at 7.30pm. Tickets are £5 which includes a ploughman's supper (bring your own drink). Everyone is welcome, please phone 01634 370492 for details.

Yours sincerely
Alan Spearink

PLANT SALE

There will be a plant sale on Saturday May 4th at 10.00am at Macklands House. Macklands House is situated at the bottom of Station Road, opposite Tilbury Road and just before Ellison Way – plenty of bargains.

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HOUSING FOR OLDER PEOPLE

Do you find your present accommodation no longer suits your needs? Are you fifty-five and over? then maybe the 'Housing For Older People Exhibition' could help you.

The 'Housing For Older People Exhibition' will be held at The Corn Exchange in Rochester, 2.00pm to 4.00pm on Tuesday 21st May. It is free of charge and open to anyone. Most of the Medway's sheltered housing providers will be there to offer help and advice. There will also be a number of other stands.

The Mayor will be present so please join him for a cup of tea and an opportunity to enter a free prize draw.

Pat Black Macklands House

DISTRIBUTORS NEEDED

As I am sure you know Action Forum is distributed to your door by a willing band of volunteers. Currently we have about fifty people who give up their time each month to bring you your copy of Action Forum. Inevitably though, as circumstances change, we are constantly in need of more helpers. The money that is *earmarked for distribution is now given to charity.* To date we have donated £1,940 to the Kajiedo project and £590 each to St Margaret's and St Matthew's Church Roof Appeal Funds. The number of copies each distributor handles, and the amount of time taken of course, varies considerably from 100 copies to 1,000 plus. I try to complete the 20,000 copies we print by filling in the areas that have no distributor and by doing those of regular helpers when they are on holidays, last month this was just over 3,000 copies. If you enjoy a walk with a purpose and have an hour or so to spare during the first week of each month could you help us? Ideally what would be most useful would be volunteers who could travel away from their own neighbourhood to fill in the gaps, but just because you have had a copy delivered to your home this does not mean we would not welcome your help, we need extra assistance in most areas. Please do get in touch if you are able to help by ringing 231307 or Rainham Bookshop 371591 during shop hours. We look forward to hearing from you.

Barbara Mackay Miller

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Diary 2002

Keeper: Mrs Christine Smith
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Wigmore
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No charge is made for Diary entries
Diary Copy Date: 14th May 2002

May 4th – Medway Camcorder Club Annual Video Show, 2.30pm, Tourist Information Centre, *Rochester. Tickets £3.50, ring 371570 for details.*
May 4th – Plant Sale, 10.00am Macklands House, Station Road, plenty of bargains.
May 5th – Medway Towns Footpath Group, 2.30pm, Penenden Heath car park.
May 5th – Ramblers Association, 10.00am. Park at Walter Burke Avenue, Wouldham.
May 5th – Countryside Event. Walk in the Woods, 10.00am to 12 noon, Capstone Country Park.
May 5th – Countryside Event. Medway Arts Spring Festival, Wood and Wool, 11.00am to 4.00pm, Riverside Country Park. Ring 842984 for details.
May 7th – Rainham Minders, 9.30 to 11.30am, Methodist Church Hall, Station Road, Rainham. All registered childminders welcome, ring Claire 376270 for details.
May 7th – Floral Art Group – Ikebana – own *interpretation.* 7.30 to 9.00pm, United Reformed Church Hall, Balmoral Road, Gillingham. Telephone 234734 for details.
May 8th – Medway Evacuees Reunion Group, 1.00 to 4.00pm, Riverside Indoor Bowling Green, Dock Road, Chatham. Ring 814922 for details.
May 8th – Rainham Flower Club. 7.30 to 9.30pm, *Upchurch Village Hall. Demonstration, Nikki* Leadson 'Some Enchanted Evening'. Ring 362123 for details.
May 8th – Bredhurst Women's Institute, 7.30pm, Bredhurst Village Hall, Resolutions Meeting, Church Shop Dress Show. Details from Gill Smith, 372250.
May 8th – Medway & District HF Holidays Walk, 10.30am, Top of Loose Hill, Maidstone.

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May 9th, 10th, 11th & 16th, 17th, 18th – RaTS present 'Haywire' by Eric Chappell, 8.00pm. Box Office 374183 (weekdays 9am to 8pm).
May 9th to 18th – Medway Little Theatre present *'Pygmalion' by George Bernard Shaw, 7.30pm.* Box Office 01634 400322.
May 10th – Gillingham and Rainham Local History Society, Social Evening, 7.15 to 9.30pm. Adult Education Centre, Green Street, Gillingham.
May 10th – Mid Kent Astronomical Society, 8.00pm, Bredhurst Village Hall.
May 11th – Women's Day Conference, St Margaret's Millennium Centre, 10.00am to 4.00pm. An opportunity to explore ways of sharing the Christian faith with others. Keynote speaker Rev. Anne Hibbert. Drinks provided, bring a packed lunch. Please book in advance, £6.00 per person (£4 concessions). Ring Jill Lovell 230780 for details.
May 11th – SPRING DANCE with Dickie Diamond and the Replays. 7.30pm at St Matthew's Community Centre, Drewery Drive, Wigmore. Tickets £8. Telephone 01634 387055.
May 11th – Medway Spinners Dyers & Weavers Association. Day School, demo and talk with slides by Priscilla Lowry. 10.00am to 4.00pm.
May 11th & 12th – Countryside Event. Horticultural Festival, Cozenton Nursery, 10.00am to 5.00pm. Ring 332497 for details.
May 12th – Medway Towns Footpath Group. *10.30am, Marden Village car park.*
May 12th – Ramblers Association, 10.00am, Ightham Mote car park.
May 13th – Wigmore WRVS Darby & Joan Club. Meet 2.00 to 4.00pm, Howard Hall, Woodside, Wigmore. We mostly play bingo, have a raffle and there is a break for a cup of tea and biscuits. People over the age of 50 are welcome and transport can sometimes be arranged. Ring 362662 for details.
May 13th – Medway Spinners Dyers & Weavers Association AGM. *Spinning.* 7.30 to 9.30pm at the Annexe (Urchins Playgroup) building in Marlborough Road, Gillingham.
May 14th – Rainham Evening Machine Knitting Club. 8.00 to 10.00pm, The Red Cross (Gillingham Centre). 31 Balmoral Rd Ring 862673 for details.

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May 14th – Medway Antiques and Collectors Club, Towers & Turrets, Mr John Vigar, 7.30 for 8.00pm, St George Hotel, 7-8 New Road Avenue, *Chatham. Ring 365861 for details.*
May 14th – Fuchsia & Pelargonium Society, 7.30 to *10.00pm, Rainham School for Girls, Derwent Way,* Rainham. Pelargoniums – Cuttings to Show Bench – David Bond. Ring 853864 for details.
May 14th – Medway Cancer Relief, Sponsored Bowl & Walk a Mile. Prince Arthur Indoor Bowls Club (opp Royal Engineers Museum, Gillingham), 9.30am to 1.00pm. Sponsorship forms available from *375517* or *230329.*
May 15th – Bredhurst Garden Club. Steve Nye. Illustrated talk 'Guildhall Museum', 8.00pm, Bredhurst Village Hall.
May 15th – Wigmore Afternoon Townswomen's Guild, 1.45 to 4.15pm, Howard Memorial Hall, Woodside. Mr P. Harris. Seaside Entertainment. *Ring 852297 for details.*
May 15th – Medway Camcorder Club, 7.30pm, Medway Yacht Club, Borstal. 60 second *competition. Ring 305490 for details.*
May 15th – Countryside Event. Evening Bird Walk, 6.45 to 8.30pm, Riverside Country Park, £1.50. Ring 378987 to book.
May 16th – Wigmore Thursday Club (see 9th May).
May 16th – Gillingham Flower Arrangers. Teaching Evening with Viv O'Sullivan. 7.30pm, The Garrison Church *Hall, Mansion Row, Brompton.*
May 16th – Countryside Talk. 7.30pm, Capstone Country Park. Making Charcoal and Wood Crafts, £1.60, *ring* 812196 to book.
May 16th – Rainham (Afternoon) WI. 1.45pm, Methodist Church Hall, Wakeley Road, Rainham. *Resolutions Meeting. Ring 372479 for details.*
May 17th – Gillingham Recorded Music Society. 7.15 to 9.15pm, St Augustine's Church Room (top of Rock Avenue). AGM followed by Music. *Ring 852905 for details.*
May 18th – Quiz Night at Oast House Community Centre, 8.00pm. Teams of 6, all welcome. Ring 374558 for details.
May 18th – Medway & District HF Holidays Walk. 10.25am, Cobham War Memorial.
May 18th & 19th – Countryside Event. Horticultural Festival, Cozenton Nursery, 10.00am to 5.00pm. Ring 332497 for details.
May 18th & 19th – Flames of Inspiration Art & Craft Exhibition. The Millennium Centre, Rainham, Sat 9.30am to 4.30pm, Sun 10.00am to 4.00pm.
May 19th – Churches Together in Rainham (CTIR) are arranging a service of PENTECOST PRAISE at St Thomas of Canterbury Church, London Road, Rainham. The service will start at 4.00pm and all are welcome.
May 19th – Ramblers Association, 10.00am. Car Park One Tree Hill, Knole.
May 19th – Medway Towns Footpath Group, 2.30pm, Cranbrook Church.
May 20th – Wigmore WRVS Darby & Joan Club (see 13th May).
May 20th – Rainham Evening WI. Letter 'Q', Resolutions. 7.30pm, Platters Lodge, Highfield Road, Rainham.
May 20th – Medway Spinners Dyers & Weavers Association. Minster.
May 21st – Housing for Older People Exhibition, *Corn Exchange, Rochester.* 2.00 to 4.00pm. Open to all free of charge.
May 21st – Rainham Minders (see 7th May).
May 21st – Floral Art Group, Demonstrations (see 7th May).
May 22nd – Medway Towns Footpath Group, 7.00pm, Bush Road, Cuxton.
May 22nd – Ramblers Association, 10.00am, Layby North Downs Way by Penny Spring Farm on the A249.
May 23rd – Tales from the Mariners, 7.30pm at The Three Mariners, Lower Rainham Road, £4.00. Medway Spring Festival. Ring 852614 for details.
May 23rd to 25th – *Wigmore MADS present 'One* O'Clock from the House' by Frank Vickery, 8.00pm, St Matthew's Community Centre. Tickets £5 from 370639.
May 24th – The Medway Geographical Society, AGM followed by A Little Polish – Mr J. Cheetham. 7.30 to 9.00pm, Adult Education Centre, Green Street, Gillingham.
May 25th – Medway & District HF Holidays Walk. 10.15am, West Malling Long Stay car park (opp The Bull).

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RAINHAM'S JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS
SUNDAY 2nd JUNE 2002
PROGRAMME OF EVENTS

10am Jubilee Pageant featuring local organisations and vehicles from the past fifty years leaves Hidson's car park (opposite Post Office) and proceeds along the High Street to High Dewar Road, Sunderland Drive, Solomon Road and into Station Road and finishes in the car park by St Margaret's Church.

10.45am National Service of Thanksgiving at St Margaret's Church.

12 noon Bring your own Picnic Lunch to the Millennium Centre for a Jubilee Party! Fun for all the family.

7.30pm A Variety Concert in St Margaret's Church given by Rainham Theatrical Society and St Margaret's Church with a rousing 'Last Night at the Proms' Finale featuring Mrs Marie Sumner. Tickets are £3 and are available from 01634 374183.

Bring along the family and make Rainham's Jubilee Celebrations a day to remember!

ST MATTHEW'S WIGMORE
CELEBRATES JUBILEE

Dear Editor,

Like many throughout the UK, St Matthew's Church in Drewery Drive, Wigmore, plans to celebrate the Queen's Jubilee over the weekend of 2nd to 4th June and your readers are very welcome to join in the celebrations. The events planned are as follows:

On Sunday 2nd June at 4.30pm an Outdoor Service of Jubilee Praise in St Matthew's Church Precinct will be held, with music by the Gillingham Salvation Army Band, tea will be available from 4.00pm.

On Monday 3rd June at 4.00pm a Jubilee Bring & Share tea will be held in the Precinct and all are welcome but please bring some food to share, soft drinks and tea provided.

Then later on Monday 3rd June at 7.30pm there will be a Charity Concert in St Matthew's Church by Annie Mawson, a very talented Celtic harpist and folk singer. Annie comes from Penrith in Cumbria and was Cumbrian Woman of the Year in 2000. Tickets are available from Peter Hagger (01634 235056) price £5, concessions £4 and accompanied children free. All proceeds will go to the Sunbeams Music Trust, which provides music for therapy for those with a variety of disabilities. We are very pleased to have Annie appearing at St Matthew's as she is such an excellent musician and her music will sound very good in St Matthew's which has acoustics ideal for concerts.

Yours sincerely
Peter Hagger

UPCHURCH JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS

Dear Editor,

May we, though Action Forum, advise your readers about an open-air event to be held in the Paddock at Upchurch on **Saturday 6th July**.

At 3.00pm the gates will be opened for people to enjoy a selection of stalls, children's entertainment, ice cream etc and then, at 5.30pm, the main event, a performance by the **Channel Theatre Company** of 5 or 6 complete stories, adaptations of myths and legends about women from a number of different ages and cultures, using music, dance and bold innovative staging.

Bring your own picnic to enjoy with your family.

Telephone 01634 231326 or 01634 230526 for queries and tickets (£5 adults, £4 concessions and £2 children under 16).

Ample free parking on the Recreation Ground.

Do make a note in your diaries to come and join us and help to make this a memorable day.

Upchurch Village Hall
Management Committee

SOUTH EAST OPEN STUDIOS

Between the 8th and 23rd June 2002 some 23 Medway Artists will be opening their studios to the public, and without obligation. Full details in new guides available soon in the Rainham Bookshop, local libraries and Adult Education Centres. Information is also available on www.southeastopenstudios.org.uk

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Nature Notes

NATURE NOTES FOR APRIL

In March Nature Notes I recalled a walk along the River Medway at Rochester. In the April Notes, by way of comparison, I write about a visit to Canterbury and the Great Stour.

I commenced my walk in Westgate Gardens. In contrast with the muddy, tidal waters of the Medway the fresh waters of the Stour were clear. According to a leaflet on the river, they contain salmon, trout and perch. Heading upstream I went under Rheims Way (the Canterbury ringroad) and into Whitehall Meadows which are one of the few remaining water meadows along the Stour. They are regularly flooded in winter and, at least in the past, were grazed or mowed in the summer. They were still boggy in places during my April visit. The vegetation consists of rushes, sedges and grasses.

Part of Whitehall Meadows were turned into a pleasure garden for the people of Canterbury between the two world wars and many large weeping willows and white poplar trees appear to have been planted during that era. There are also a number of alder trees which would have grown naturally by the river.

Clumps of marsh marigold (or kingcups) were in flower. Before the extensive draining of the English countryside, from the eighteenth century onwards, kingcups must have been the most conspicuous plants of early spring, blooming in water meadows and other wet places. Also growing along the bank of the river were extensive stretches of hemlock water dropwort, a tall umbellifer, whose white flowers will not blossom until May.

Mute swans and mallard were swimming in the river. I had seen the same two species on my visit to the Medway. Here on the Stour they would be nesting among the lush vegetation on the banks. I went under a railway bridge and into a field where, in the summer, one can sit and watch the punts go by. On the opposite bank to the field was Wincheap Meadow which, particularly in winter, is the haunt of snipe, mallard, teal and lapwing.

I retraced my steps. On the return journey I had views of Canterbury Cathedral which, from my position to the south west of the city, looks as though it is surrounded by water meadows. As it flows through the city itself the Great Stour divides into two. The northern arm runs close to old walls and bastions and mill sites. The southern arm passes by the Norman castle, former friaries and monasteries and the one-time houses of Flemish weavers. Where it was possible, I walked beside each arm, from Bingley Island where the river divides to Kingsmead Meadows where it becomes one channel again.

Even in the centre of the city I came across a number of water hens moving furtively along the edges of the river. Much more tame and much more noisy were many mallard. In the river itself I observed what appeared to me to be a shoal of chubb. Lime, sycamore and London plane trees were in evidence among the red bricked and yellow stock bricked houses of the city. There was little or no bird life in the streets but I did notice a couple of old house martins' nests under the eaves of a house in Broad Street. It was a reminder that the air above Canterbury would soon echo to the calls of house martins (and their more gregarious cousins the swifts).

I ended my walk in the precinct of Canterbury Cathedral. A large London plane tree with a massive bulbous trunk stands prominently to the east end of the cathedral. By contrast, the west end of Rochester Cathedral sports an impressive Indian bean tree. Looking around me I concluded that Rochester Cathedral has the edge over its elder sister in the leafiness of its surroundings.

Joe Ennis

RAINHAM'S CORONATION CELEBRATIONS

by Freddie Cooper
Continued from March 2002

In 1953 the population seemed to be captivated by the Coronation of our young Queen and almost everyone entered into the spirit of the occasion. Rainham was proud to play its part.

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The most heated arguments occurred after the event when the Committee had to decide how to dispose of a balance of £164 which was left after all accounts had been paid. Many ideas were eventually eliminated in favour of a village clock. Barclay's Bank, at the junction of Station Road and the High Street, was one obvious location but Mr C.D. Lake, the Deputy Borough Engineer, who still lives in Wigmore, suggested that the Church Clock be renovated and a new face placed on the western side of the Tower. He had ascertained that the clock mechanism had been constructed around 1730 by William Gill of Maidstone and that this originally operated an hourly strike on the tenor bell. Apparently the peal of bells go back to the 16th century and the treble and No. 2 were provided by parishioners in 1913 in memory of King Edward VII and the Coronation of King George V and Queen Mary. Mr Lake suggested that the chestnut trees on the grass bank be removed and new trees planted in the churchyard, this would have thrown the Church tower into more prominence and given a wider vista along the High Street. Apparently the Vicar at that time was quite keen on the project and thought that a small additional contribution could be made.

The arguments in Committee created our first real divisions, the Church scheme seemed to follow a precedent but a most vocal group considered it wrong in principle to apply money, which had been raised by residents of all faiths and none, upon the Parish Church. The arguments that everyone would view the clock were not persuasive enough. That is why an 'English Electric' Arctic clock is still situated on Barclay's Bank building with a plaque to the left of the front door.

Incidentally Gillingham Borough Council maintained it until 1998 when Medway assumed responsibility. I have frequently telephoned when it has stopped and I hope that others will do the same. The present officers are Mr Strila and Mr Dray on 331151. Perhaps our Rainham Councillors will also note the arrangement which has been reasonably honoured for 50 years but Councils do need reminding at times.

Freddie Cooper

THE RAINHAM & WIGMORE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

Friday 10th May is Chinese night at the Rainham Oasthouse Centre. Come along at 8.00pm for a splendid Chinese meal, a drink and a little quiz on China, all for £5. The winner of the quiz gets free entry to next month's event. Contact Lynn Cass on 01634 370327 to find out more details.

Quiz Night 18th May 2002

The third Saturday of every month is Quiz Night at the Oasthouse Community Centre, right beside Rainham railway station. Entrants compete in teams of six, but if you have not got a team but would like to compete, just come along and you will be fitted in. The price of entry is £1.50 for members of the Rainham and Wigmore Community Association, £2 for non-members. The evening starts at 7.30pm and finishes at about 11. Refreshments such as cheese and ham rolls will be on sale at reasonable prices during the interval, and the Centre has a bar that will be open throughout the evening. Our quizzes are very relaxed and friendly affairs, so if you are free, please come along and take part.

RAINHAM AND WIGMORE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

The RWCA holds it Annual General Meeting on Tuesday 14th May 2002. On the agenda are the following proposed changes to the constitution:

Proposed amended Paragraphs 2 and 3:

The Executive Committee shall have the power to co-opt additional members who shall be members of the Council provided that the number of co-opted members does not exceed one-third of the total number of elected and ex-officio members. All members of the Executive Committee shall retire annually but shall be eligible to be appointed or co-opted again.

The Executive Committee shall have the power to appoint from Council members such sub-committees as it may from time to time decide and may determine their powers and terms of reference.

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Diary 2002

May 25th – Miers Court School, 11.00am to 2.00pm, Teddy Bear Picnic on the field, bring a picnic. Enjoy games for children, peruse the plant stall. Ring 388943 for details.
May 25th – Medway Little Theatre Junior Children's Workshop. Box Office 400322.
May 26th – Medway Towns Footpath Group, 2.00pm, Mereworth Church.
May 26th – Ramblers Association, 10.00am, Cock Inn, Henley Street, near Meopham.
May 26th – Countryside Event. Summer Bird Walk, 7.00 to 10.00am, Capstone Country Park, £1.50. Ring 812196 to book.
May 27th – Wigmore WRVS Darby & Joan Club (see 13th May).
May 28th – Rainham Evening Machine Knitting Club (see 14th May).
May 28th – Countryside Event Evening Bird Cruise, £13 payable in advance. Ring 378987.
May 29th – Medway Camcorder Club. Filming the story board script (see 15th May).
May 29th – Ramblers Association , 6.45pm, White Hart PH, Cuxton.
May 30th – Rainham & District Dollshouse and Miniaturist Group. For details telephone 312038.
May 30th – Wigmore Thursday Club. Service, Sales Stall and Singalong.
May 31st – Mid-Kent Astronomical Society 10th May).

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June 1st – Medway & District HF Holidays Walk, 10.15am, Yalding High Street.
June 2nd – Outdoor Service of Jubilee Praise to Celebrate the Queen's Jubilee, 4.30pm in St Matthew's Church Precinct, Drewery Drive, with music by the Gillingham Salvation Army Band. Tea will be available from 4.00pm.
June 2nd – Rainham's Jubilee Celebrations, 10.00am Pageant, 10.45am Service of Thanksgiving, St Margaret's Church, 12 noon Bring your own Picnic Lunch at the Millennium Centre, 7.30pm Variety Concert in the church. Tickets £3 from 374183.
June 2nd – Ramblers Association, 10.00am, car park next to Linton Church.
June 2nd – Medway Towns Footpath Group, 10.30am, Queen's Head, Sutton Valence.
June 3rd – Jubilee Bring & Share tea, 4.00pm in St Matthew's Church Precinct, Drewery Drive. All are welcome but please bring some food to share, soft drinks and tea are provided.
June 3rd – A Charity Concert, 7.30pm in St Matthew's Church, Drewery Drive, by Annie Mawson, a Celtic harpist and folk singer. Tickets are available from Peter Hagger (01634 235056) price £5, concessions £4 and accompanied children free.
June 4th – Floral Art Group, 'Bellisima', an Italian Mass arrangement (see 7th May).
June 5th – Countryside Event. Children's Nature Day, 10.30am to 12 noon or 1.30 to 3.00pm, Riverside Country Park. Ring 378987 to book.
June 5th – Rainham Horticultural Society, 7.30pm, Pavilion, Cricket Ground, Berengrave Lane. Four Seasons Walk through Kent, Mr C. Wade. Ring 387176 for details.
June 5th – The Friendship Circle meets 2.15pm, Parkwood Christian Fellowship. Ring 365758 for details.
June 6th – Gillingham Flower Arrangers, Arrangements for Queen's Jubilee (see 16th May).
June 6th – Countryside Event. 10.00am to 12 noon or 2.00 to 4.00pm, Children's Nature Day, Capstone Country Park. Ring 812196 to book.

Continued on page 13

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Diary 2002

June 8th – Wine and Wisdom in aid of RNID at 7.30pm at St Matthew's Community Centre, Drewery Drive, Wigmore. Tickets £5 including Supper. Telephone Tina for details on 370492.

June 8th, 9th, 10th – South East Open Studios, The Old Reed Bed (opp Three Tuns PH), Lower Halstow, Three Local Potters. Ring 378692 for details.

June 9th – Medway Towns Footpath Group, 2.30pm, Bush Road, Cuxton.

June 10th – Wigmore WRVS Darby & Joan Club. Golden Jubilee Celebrations.

June 10th – Medway Spinners, Dyers & Weavers Association. Bobbie Kociejow – Working as an artist in residence in schools (see 13th May).

June 11th – Rainham Evening Machine Knitting Club (see 14th May).

June 11th – Medway Antique and Collectors Club (see 14th May).

Upbury Manor Barn Dance Club meet every Thursday at Woodlands Road, Gillingham. 7.30 to 9.30pm. Beginners welcome, singles or couples, ring 362446 for information.

Music Kindergarden Classes for babies & children 0-7yrs by Qualified Colourstrings Teacher at St Paul's Church Hall, Parkwood Green on Thursday afternoons. Please ring 01435 872086 for more information.

SAVE OUR RANGERS!!

Thank you to everyone who supported our recent **Save the Rangers!!** Campaign. We handed over a petition which had 1,230 signatures to Paul Clarke, MP. The rangers' jobs will be reviewed again in March 2003 therefore it is important that we continue sending petitions to the council until they realise that we, the people who enjoy the Riverside & Capstone Country Parks in their entirety, are not prepared to see them deteriorate. This will happen unless they continue to be covered by the rangers. The parks are open 363 days a year and need to be park ranger controlled not just in the summer months but for all of the days they are open! So please sign our petition which can be found in the café at the Riverside Country Park and also send your opinions to the council. You can do this by writing a letter or by using the cards which can be located in the visitor centre.

Mrs Yvonne Furnell
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